

This session's objectives:

- To kick-start each Candidate's search for a Confirmation Name and the writing of their Name Reflection essay
- To give candidates experience in recognizing saints by attributes/deeds, as in Christian art and saints' lives
- To explore the Beatitudes as a model for discipleship and holiness as lived out by the saints
- To challenge the candidates to say "yes" to the call to discipleship and make changes in their lives in order to be "all in" or to "love as Jesus loved, deny ourselves & follow him"

This session's program:**Time(s)**

- 1. Name-tag pick-up** - *can bless selves with holy water as enter the room both days* 0-5 min 6:45
- 2. Icebreaker: Scenes from a Cup (in Tables/in Groups)** 10 min 6:50
 - volunteer actor from each table/group chooses an action from their cup
 - catechist can help in case of questions and as second judge for correctness of guesses
 - actor must mime action without speech/sounds, get other members to guess the action
 - continue so each has a turn to act, etc. - then discuss homework, especially *textbook p. 17*
- 1. Opening Prayer** (*Beatitudes, Mt 5 & Joe Melendrez, "Mercy"*) (Rachel/Joe/Paul) 5 min 7:00
- 2. Beatitudes / Saints and how to "read" them** (Rachel/Joe/Paul) 15 min 7:05
 - main teachings of Jesus from Sermon on the Mt, slightly different in Luke 8 (poorer)
 - begin with Gk *makarios*, "happy" (cf. "dichosos" in Spanish vs. "blessed" in English)
 - counter to message of world: consumer culture, selfishness, egocentricity, competition
 - saints as disciples of Jesus who really lived the Beatitudes, "in the world but not of it"
 - definition of discipleship, being and learning in community (Communion of Saints)
 - overview of communion of saints, miracles for canonization - animated [St. Carlo Acutis video](#)
 - "reading" icons/images using attributes: what you can tell about a saint by what they are holding/wearing/doing – practice w/ images in slides, St. Lucy (eyes) & Pope St. Leo the Great (tiara)
- 3. Breakout Session at Tables (at Tables/in Groups)** 40-45 min 7:15
 - *each table/group receives a set of 15-20 saint biography cards, in the large manila envelope. There are 15-20 so that you have a choice of which to do, but don't feel obligated to read through all of them. Let candidates become interested in names/pictures to choose.*
 - *candidates take turns reading saints' bios out loud*
 - *connect saint's actions to Beatitudes using "Don't Be Fooled" handout, including how the saint went against what society expected* Trk B: 20 minutes to look & discuss

 - *each candidate picks a saint bio to answer questions about individually (the same as the one they read or a different one they like better* 20 min to do *worksheets*
- 4. Guided Meditation on Holiness & Discipleship** (Rachel/Paul/Joe) 10 min 8:05
 - *each choose a saint prayer card from the small white envelope to pray with and take home*
 - As disciples, we have been called to "love as Jesus loved, deny ourselves & follow him."*
 - Reading **The Cost of Discipleship** (Luke 14:25-33) - *Individually reflect on how we can become better disciples, using cross sheet & saint cards* - turn in **cross sheets & blue Sponsor forms** at prayer space
- 5. Choosing your Confirmation Name, Homework & Reminders** (Rachel/Paul/Joe) 10 min 8:15
- 6. Closing Prayer (hip-hop litany of the saints)** (Rachel/Paul/Joe) 5 min 8:25

Homework & Reminders for Candidates:

- begin working on Confirmation Name Essay (due **A/November 17** or **B/November 20**) by starting your research. Use the resources on the back of the yellow/gold Name Reflection sheet.
- **Homework** is due at next class: **Track A Mon 11/3; Track B Wed 11/5 & Thurs 11/6 in Religion**
 - **Read/do pages 2-4 in your Journal**
 - **Bring in 2 saint names and something about each that you like / find interesting**
- **Be sure to invite your Sponsor(s) and parent(s) for class on Monday 11/10 at St. Matthias Church!**

HOMEWORK – Track A *(due next Monday 11/3)*

Part 1 Read/do **pages 2-4 in the Journal**

Part 2 *(the first step of a 3-week project)*

Begin working on Confirmation Name Essay by starting your research. **Use the resources on the back of the yellow Selecting a Confirmation Name sheet** and the guidelines below.

For next week's class, you will need to have **2 saint names** and **something about each that you like / find interesting**. This should be the result of your early research and should be written on a Notes page of your Confirmation journal (at the end of each section) so it is less easily lost or left at home.

Research Guidelines: Include your own thoughts alongside the facts. This is a **reflection**, not a report!

- Examples of **good** research you **should** do:
 - Ask your family and/or Sponsor(s) about saints who they admire or the saint for whom you have been named.
 - Look up the **meaning of your name**, including your middle name if you have one.
 - Go to a recommended saint website like **CatholicSaints.info** or Catholic Online (**catholic.org**) to search for saint names (including your first, middle, and/or last name), days that are special to you, or patrons of things important to you.
- Examples of **poor** research you **should not** do:
 - Ask **Google** to search for “saint (your name)” and hope you get something good.
 - Only rely on **Wikipedia**. It's good for filling in facts after you find a saint you like, but not great for finding one in the first place. It can be hard to tell who the person really was and why they are a saint amid all Wikipedia's details.
 - Assume that the saint whose biography you read and answered questions about in class, or whose card you prayed with at the end, has been **assigned** to you as your Confirmation Name saint. *We did these activities to show you a lot of saints, not to force one on you!*
 - Do **nothing** or let **AI** try to write a reflection for you. AI is not preparing for Confirmation – **you are!**

Begin now to **choose your Confirmation Name** and write the **Name Reflection** which will be due in 3 weeks:

- **Track A / Religious Ed:** Monday, November 17th at Confirmation class

REMINDERS for upcoming events – Track A

Monday, November 10: **Class with Sponsors & Parents**, 6:45-8:30 p.m. in St. Matthias Church, 2310 W. Ainslie.

Saturday, November 15: **Never Alone Retreat with NET Ministries**, 12 noon.-6 p.m., Holy Family Hall (basement) at Queen of Angels Church, 2330 W. Sunnyside.

- Plan to be dropped off and picked up at the appropriate times. **Families are invited and encouraged to join in the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass in English for the last hour of the retreat.**
- We will begin in the church basement (Holy Family Hall) and conclude in the main worship space upstairs.
- Pizza lunch will be provided. You may bring your own food if you wish.
- Bring a refillable water bottle labeled with your name.
- You will NOT need your usual materials for the retreat (Bible, book, journal, folder).

HOMEWORK – Track B *(due next Wednesday 11/5)*

Part 1 Read/do **pages 2-4 in the Journal**

Part 2 *(the first step of a 3-week project)*

Begin working on Confirmation Name Essay by starting your research. **Use the resources on the back of the yellow Selecting a Confirmation Name sheet** and the guidelines below.

For next week's class, you will need to have **2 saint names** and **something about each that you like / find interesting**. This should be the result of your early research and should be written on a Notes page of your Confirmation journal (at the end of each section) so it is less easily lost or left at home.

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 - Do **nothing** or let **AI** try to write a reflection for you. AI is not preparing for Confirmation – **you are!**

Begin now to **choose your Confirmation Name** and write the **Name Reflection** which will be **due in 3 weeks**:

- **Track B / Catholic Schools:** Thursday, November 20th in Religion class

REMINDERS for upcoming events – Track B

Monday, November 10: **Class with Sponsors & Parents**, 6:45-8:30 p.m. in St. Matthias Church, 2310 W. Ainslie.

Saturday, November 15: **Never Alone Retreat with NET Ministries**, 12 noon.-6 p.m., Holy Family Hall (basement) at Queen of Angels Church, 2330 W. Sunnyside.

- Plan to be dropped off and picked up at the appropriate times. **Families are invited and encouraged to join in the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass in English for the last hour of the retreat.**
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